

member countries during the 5th India-ASEAN Summit held in Cebu, the Philippines on 14 January 2007.

(b) Does not arise.

### **Strengthening of ties with Russia**

**322. SHRI DARA SINGH:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government propose to take or have taken so far to strengthen its ties with Russia;

(b) whether any agreement between the two Governments were signed in New Delhi during the recent visit of President of Russia; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, programme-wise indicating the projects in which Russia has expressed its desire to offer funds, project-wise, location-wise and investment-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE):** (a) The Government of India engages with the Government of the Russian Federation to promote mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries and the two governments have established a frame-work in the form of bilateral agreements over a wide range of topics. In this context, there are India-Russia inter-governmental commissions on economic, scientific technological, cultural and military technical cooperation, which meet periodically. There are frequent high-level exchanges between the two countries and in January 2007; the President of the Russian Federation paid an official visit to India to further strengthen bilateral cooperation.

(b) and (c) The following documents were signed between the two governments during the January, 2007 visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India:

- 1) Joint Statement on the outcome of the official visit of the President of the Russian Federation to India;
- 2) Programme of Cultural Exchanges for the years 2007-09;
- 3) Protocol on holding "Year of Russia in India" in the year 2008 and "Year of India in Russia" in the year 2009;
- 4) Memorandum of Intent on development of cooperation in the construction of additional nuclear power plant units at the

Kundankulam site as well as in the construction of Russian design nuclear power plants at new sites in the Republic of India;

- 5) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to navigation signals of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS for peaceful purposes;
- 6) Agreement on access of the Indian Party to a part of the Russian Global Navigation Satellite System GLONASS Radio Frequency Spectrum;
- 7) Agreement on cooperation in the joint satellite project "YOUTHSAT"; and
- 8) Protocol on exchange of information on the movement of goods and conveyances between the Republic of India and the Russian Federation.

### **Trade through Nathu La Pass**

323. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government and Chinese Government have agreed to trade through 'Nathu La' Pass on Sikkim-Tibet border;

(b) if so, whether other passes i.e. Chola Tangkar La/Funkarru La/Gore La/Kongra La/Nakoo La and Choroniyana La on Indo-Tibet border are also proposed to be opened;

(c) if not, the reasons for opening only "Nathu La" for this purpose;

(d) whether India has again given a chance to China for an attack on the pattern of 1962; and

(e) the estimated loss suffered by India in trade with China after the Chinese attack?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) At present, border trade with China is being conducted through three border passes, namely, Lipulekh, Shipkila and Nathu La.